

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01106 141328Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /075 W
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R 141339Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 627
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1106

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MA, LY, PEPR, PINT
SUBJ: LIBYAN MINISTER VISITS MADAGASCAR

1. LIBYAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE, MOHAMMED ZWAI, VISITED MADAGASCAR FROM JUNE 8 TO 10. ON JUNE 10 HE WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA TO WHOM HE DELIVERED GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT QUADHAFI. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN THE TWO MEN EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE EFFORTS OF REACTIONARY AND IMPERIALIST ELEMENTS TO UNDERMINE PROGRESSIVE REGIMES WHICH HAVE NEVER BEEN FORGIVEN FOR THEIR CHOICE OF POLICY.

2. LIBYAN CHARGE IN MADAGASCAR TOLD ME AFTER THIS MEETING THAT ALTHOUGH RATSIRAKA REFERRED TO DISORDERS OF MAY 29-30 HE GAVE NO PARTICULAR SPECIFICS ABOUT THEM NOR EXPLAINED HIS OWN AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S BLAMING OF THEM ON CAPITALISTS AND IMPERIALISTS. IN FACT RATSIRAKA SAID THAT PRIVATE ELEMENTS HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF A POLITICAL CONFRONTATION TO SETTLE A FEW SCORES AND GET AWAY WITH SOME LOOT. THIS IS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS

THAT BOTH STUDENTS AND LOOTERS WERE BASICALLY BLAMELESS, AND THAT IMPERIALISTS INSTIGATORS WERE REAL CULPRITS. POSSIBLE HE DOES NOT COMPLETELY BELIEVE SOME OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S MORE FAR-FETCHED
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PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THIS MATTER.
BARRETT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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